

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 1.

1. (Twice Amended) A method of reducing pitting of a solid support in the preparation of a nucleic acid array on said solid support, wherein said solid support is non-porous and substantially planar or comprises substantially planar regions, said method comprising:
 - a) attaching a plurality of nucleic acids to said support to form an array; and
 - b) drying said array by exposing to a dry atmosphere for a period of at least 30 seconds.

Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

Copies of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed June 20, 2001 were mailed to the Examiner on October 10, 2002. Applicants have also submitted a copy of the postcard receipt indicating that the cited references were received by the U.S. Patent Office with the IDS in June 2001. Applicants believe that the references were lost in the Patent Office. Applicants respectfully request entry of the IDS and consideration of the references cited therein. Applicants would appreciate it if the Examiner would return an initialed copy of the associated PTO-1449 Form with the next communication.

Claim Amendment

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the claimed method reduces pitting of a solid support in the preparation of a nucleic acid array. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite the solid support is non-porous. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at page 7, lines 9-10 and page 13, lines 33-34 of the specification.